MARVEL LEGACY

LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME

384

DOCTOR STRANGE®

CATES
WALTA
BELLAIRE

STEPHEN STRANGE WAS A PREEMINENT SURGEON UNTIL A CAR ACCIDENT DAMAGED THE NERVES IN HIS HANDS. HIS EGO DROVE HIM TO SCOUR THE GLOBE FOR A MIRACLE CURE. INSTEAD, HE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS WIZARD CALLED THE ANCIENT ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM MAGIC AND THAT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD BIGGER THAN HIMSELF. THESE LESSONS ENABLED STEPHEN TO BECOME THE SORCERER SUPREME, EARTH'S FIRST DEFENSE AGAINST ALL MANNER OF MAGICAL THREATS. HIS PATIENTS CALL HIM...

DOCTOR STRANGE

LAST TIME...

THE VISHANTI MADE LOKI SORCERER SUPREME, AND HIS DIVINE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE COST OF MAGIC MADE HIM SO GOOD, STEPHEN STRANGE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT HIS DEMOTION. BUT LOKI BEGAN SEEKING THE EXILE OF SINGHSOON, A SPELL HE BELIEVES IS SEALED IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, WHICH WOULD TRANSFER ALL THE WORLD'S MAGIC TO HIM.

IN FACT, STRANGE TIED THE EXILE TO THE SOUL OF HIS FORMER APPRENTICE, ZELMA STANTON—A HIDING PLACE WHICH BECOMES LESS SECURE AS LOKI AND ZELMA GROW CLOSER. WITH ALL OF EXISTENCE ON THE LINE, STRANGE ASKED HIS ESTRANGED ASSISTANT WONG AND THE RECLUSIVE SENTRY FOR HELP TO INVADE ASGARD. THERE, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN OFFERING, THE WORLD TREE GAVE STRANGE THE POWER HE WILL NEED TO DEFEAT LOKI.

"LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME"
PART FOUR

WRITER
DONNY CATES

ARTIST
GABRIEL HERNANDEZ WALTA

COLOR ARTIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE

SPECIAL THANKS TO
DAVID B. COOPER

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ARTIST
MIKE DEL MUNDO

YOUNG AVENGERS VARIANT ARTIST
KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

DESIGNER ANTHONY GAMBINO ASSISTANT EDITOR KATHLEEN WISNESKI EDITOR NICK LOWE

EDITOR IN CHIEF C.B. CEBULSKI CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER JOE QUESADA
PRESIDENT DAN BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN FINE

DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

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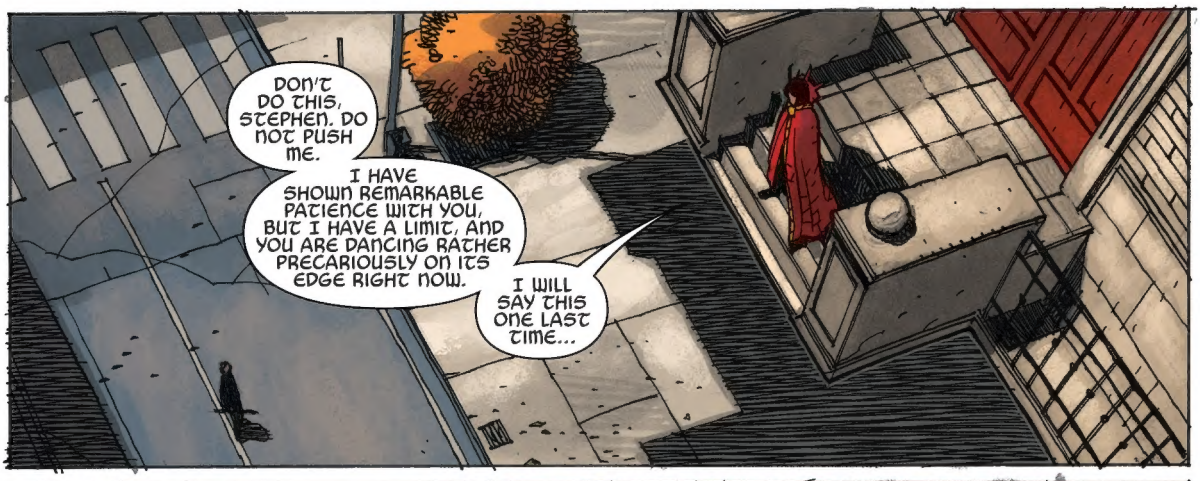
EVERYTHING, AS THEY SAY, HAS A PRICE.
ONE DAY I WILL PAY FOR THE THINGS I HAVE DONE.
I WILL PAY FOR THE RESURRECTION OF A FALLEN SENTRY.
FOR LAYING SIEGE TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD.
FOR STEALING ITS MAGIC SO THAT I MAY RECLAIM MY OWN.
ONE DAY I WILL STAND BEFORE THE VISHANTI, AND I WILL BE JUDGED FOR THESE THINGS.
I WILL ANSWER FOR MY CRIMES.
AND ON THAT DAY, I WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THE ONES I AM ABOUT TO COMMIT...

...BUT THAT DAY IS NOT TODAY.
CRSH
OH, come on...
STEPHEN, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
IS ZELMA HOME?

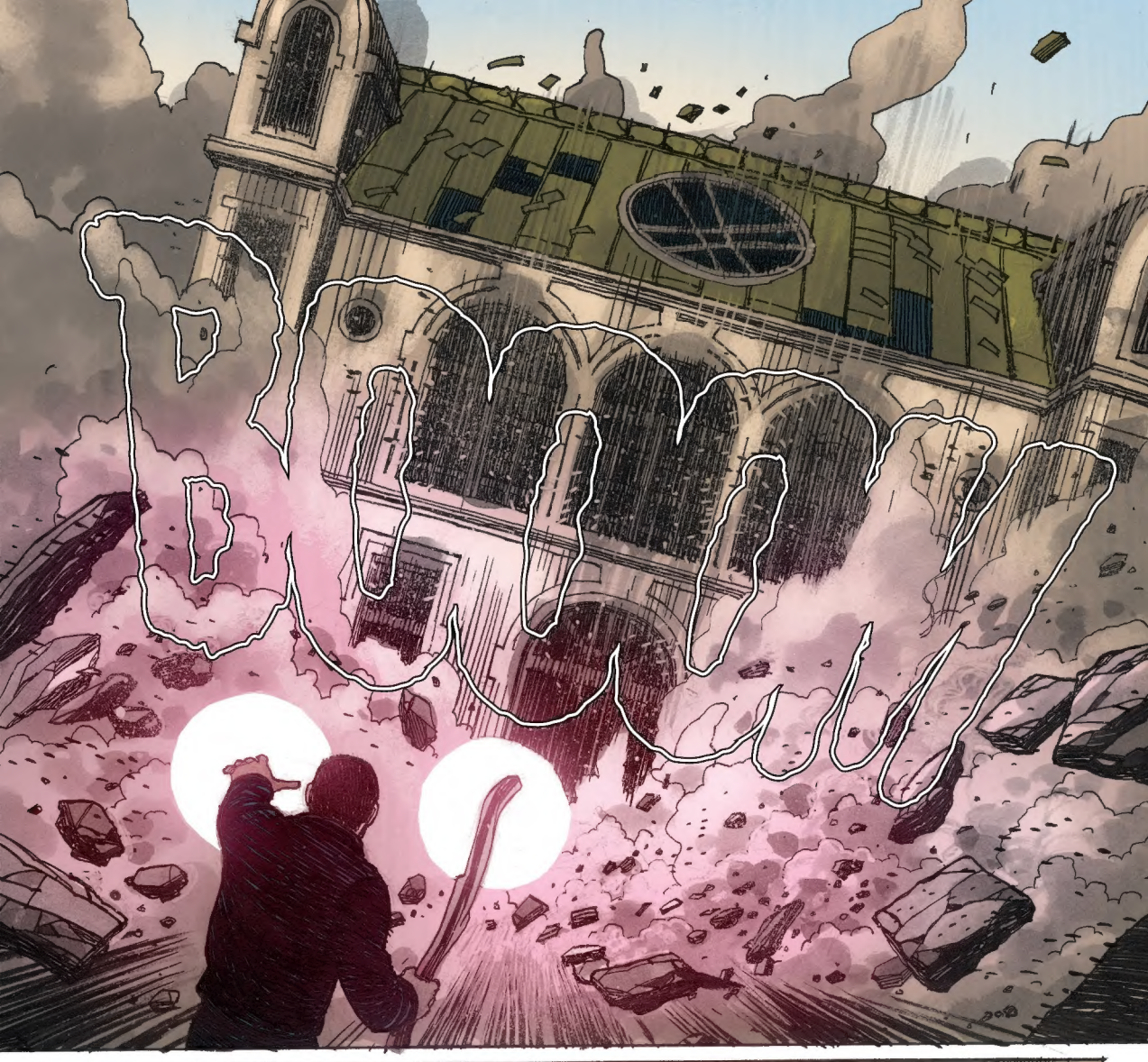

DON'T DO THIS, STEPHEN. DO NOT PUSH ME.
I HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE PATIENCE WITH YOU, BUT I HAVE A LIMIT, AND YOU ARE DANCING RATHER PRECARIOUSLY ON ITS EDGE RIGHT NOW.
I WILL SAY THIS ONE LAST TIME...

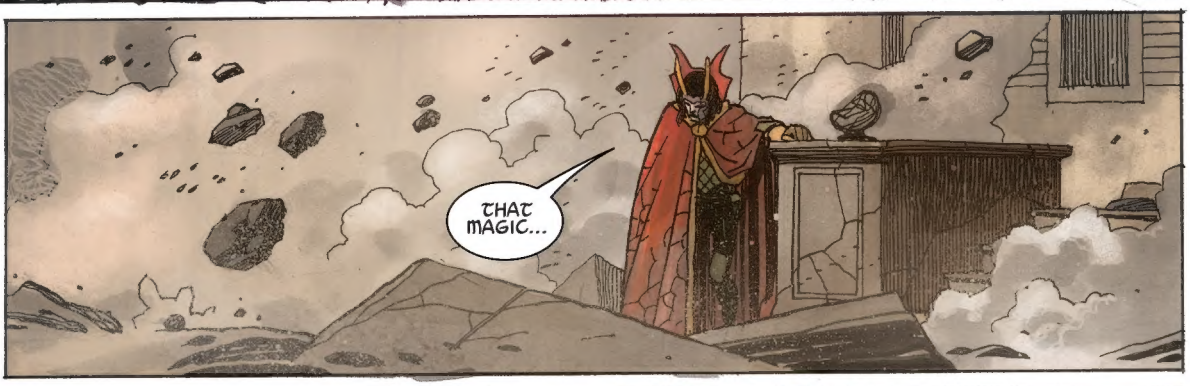
GO. GO NOW, AND DO NOT COME BACK.

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION.

→SIGH← I SEE YOU'VE CHOSEN THE HILL YOU WANT TO DIE ON. VERY WELL...
NO. NO, ZELMA IS NOT HOME. IS THERE PERHAPS SOMETHING *I CAN HELP YOU WITH?*

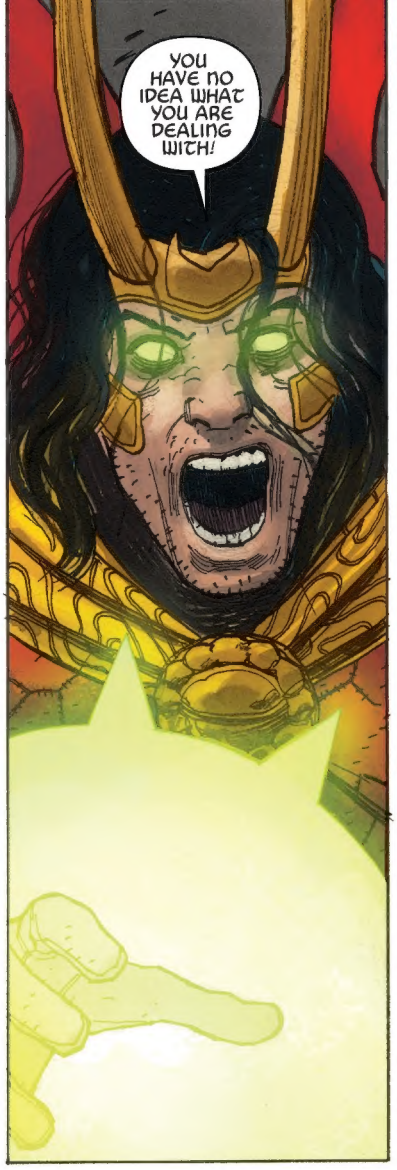
NO.


BOOM

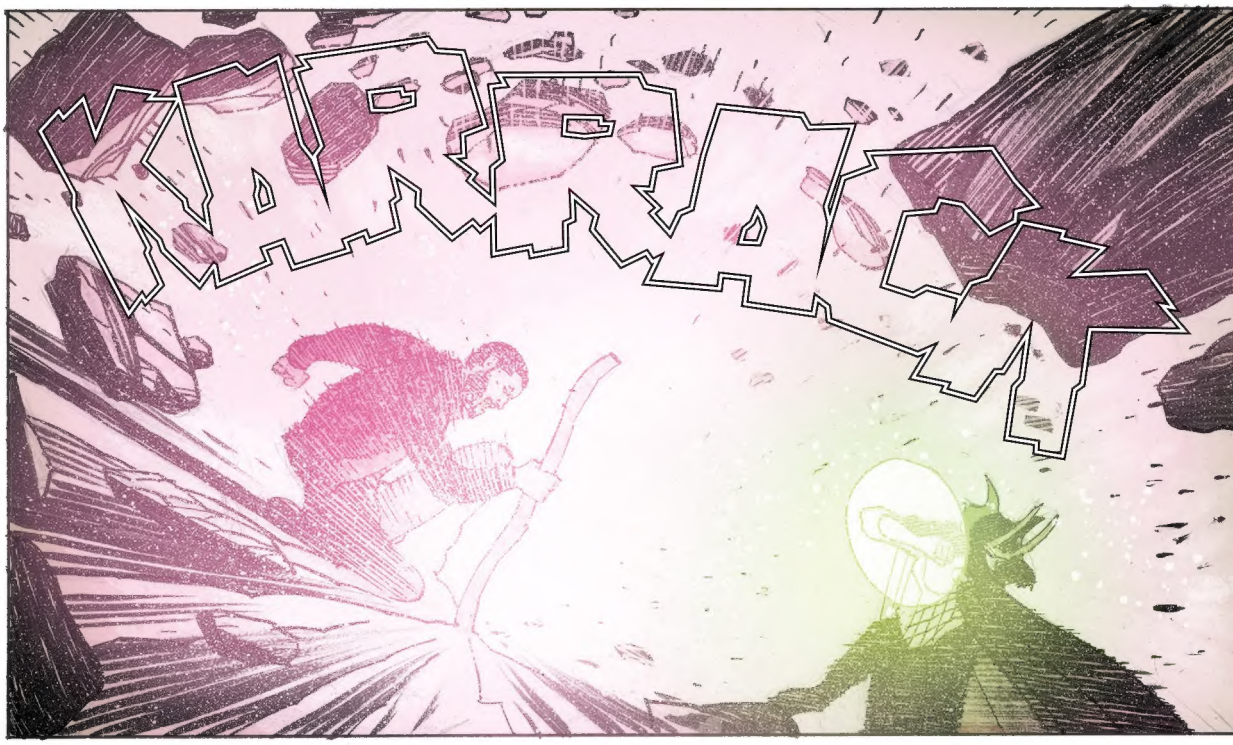

THAT MAGIC...

STEPHEN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

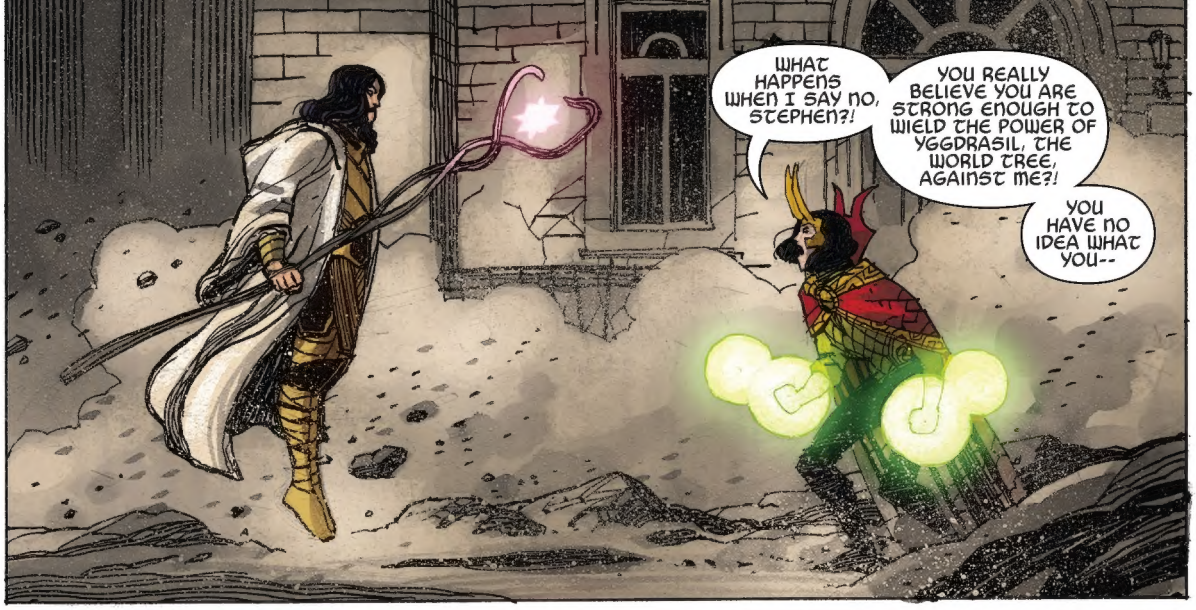
I HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE PATIENCE WITH YOU, LOKI...
DON'T YOU DARE...
BUT I HAVE A LIMIT, AND YOU ARE DANCING RATHER PRECARIOUSLY ON ITS EDGE RIGHT NOW.

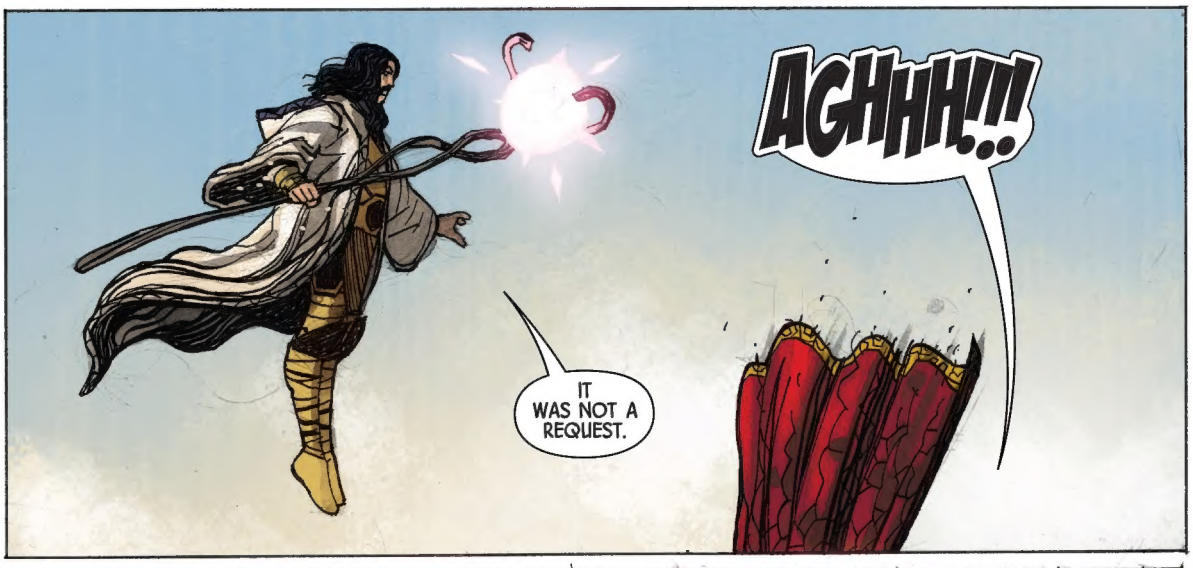

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH!

SO, I WILL SAY THIS ONE LAST TIME...


KRAK

GET THE HEL OUT OF MY HOUSE.

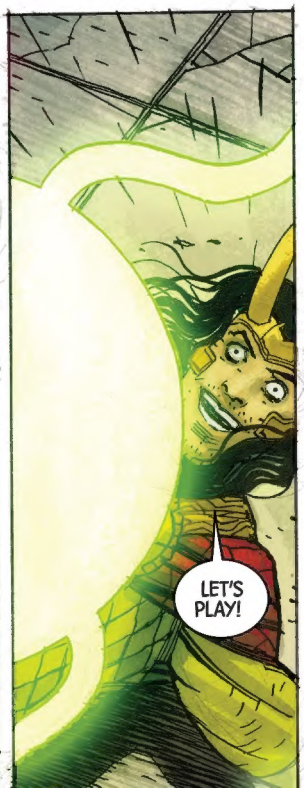

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I SAY NO, STEPHEN?!
YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO WIELD THE POWER OF YGGDRASIL, THE WORLD TREE, AGAINST ME?!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU--


AGHHH!!!
IT WAS NOT A REQUEST.

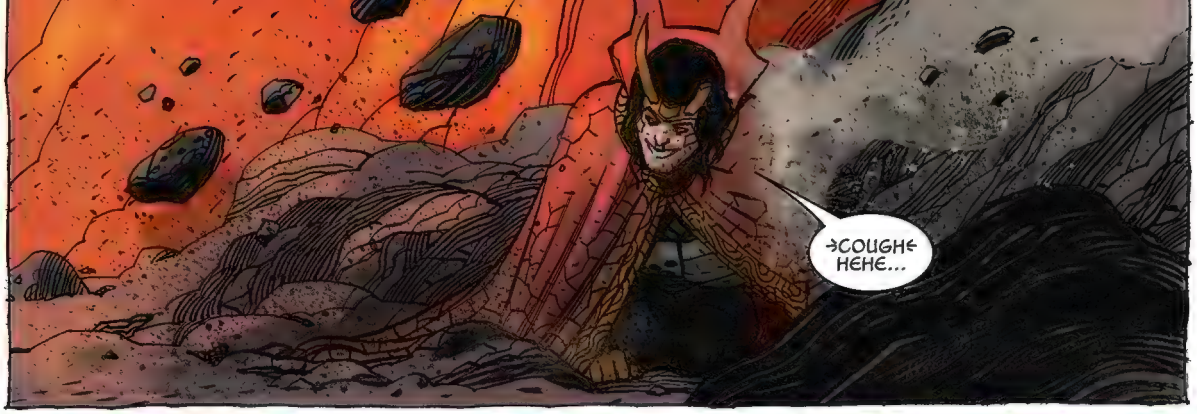
HA! GAMES, IS IT?! VERY GOOD!

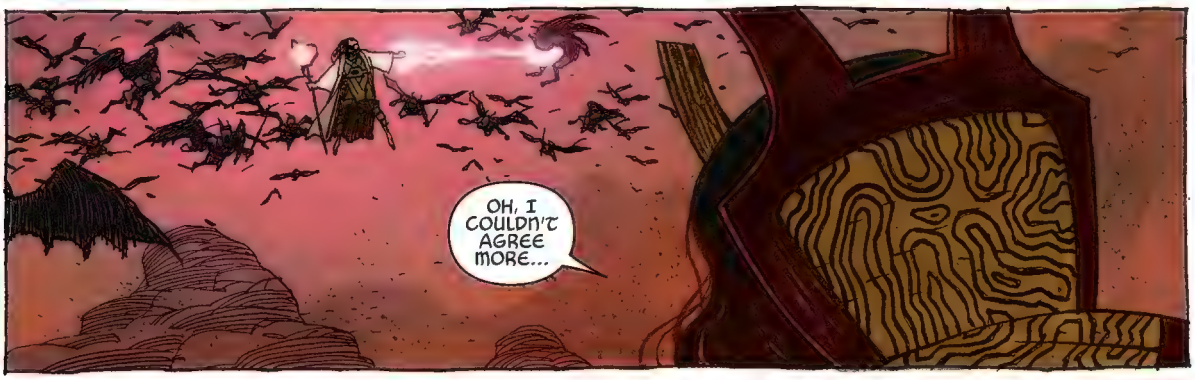
COME ON, THEN!

GAH!
VWAAM


LET'S PLAY!

DIMENSION BLOOD.
ANCESTRAL NESTING REALM OF THE CANCEROUS VAMPA CABRA WARRIORS. AMONGST OTHER THINGS...
AGH!
ENOUGH!
VRR RRAM


COUGH HEHE...

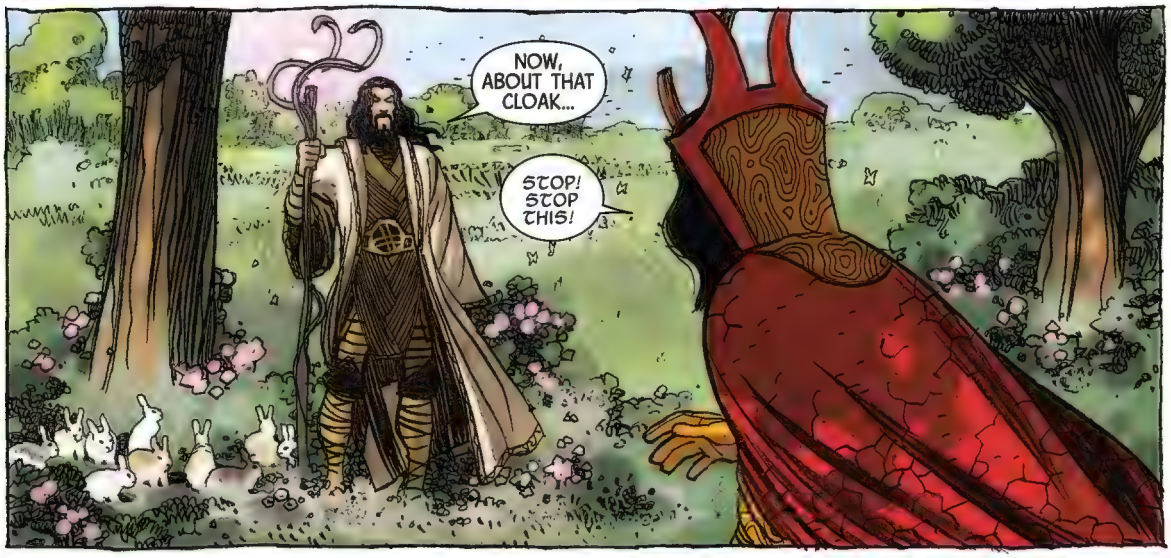

OH, I COULDN'T AGREE MORE...

AGGGH!

WAAAAAAM

REALLY, LOKI? DEMONS? A HELL DIMENSION?

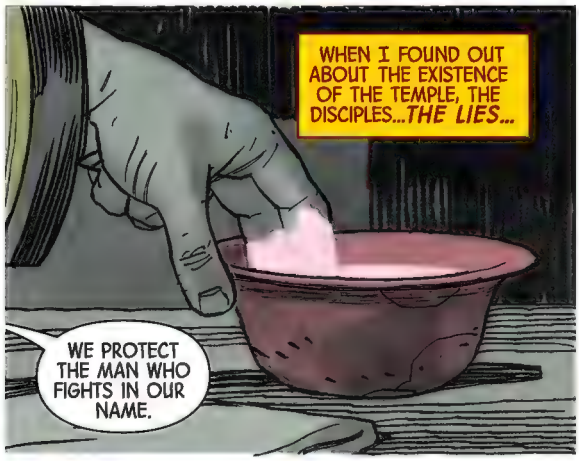
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO I AM?

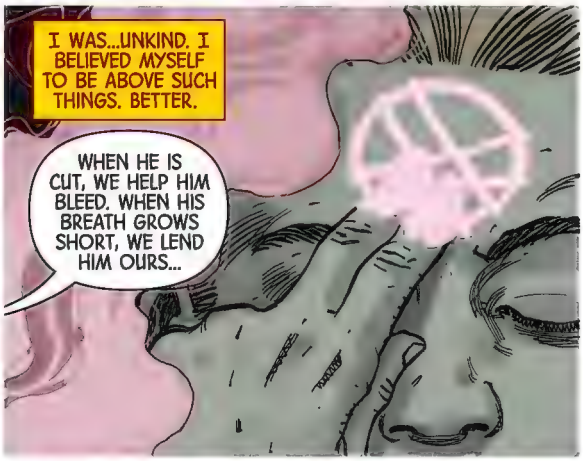

NOW, ABOUT THAT CLOAK...
STOP! STOP THIS!

Y-YOU JUST TRANSMUTED AN ENTIRE DIMENSION!
STEPHEN, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE BECOME...IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR A MORTAL TO HANDLE THE PRICE FOR THIS LEVEL OF MAGIC...
...HOW ARE YOU PAYING FOR ALL OF THIS?

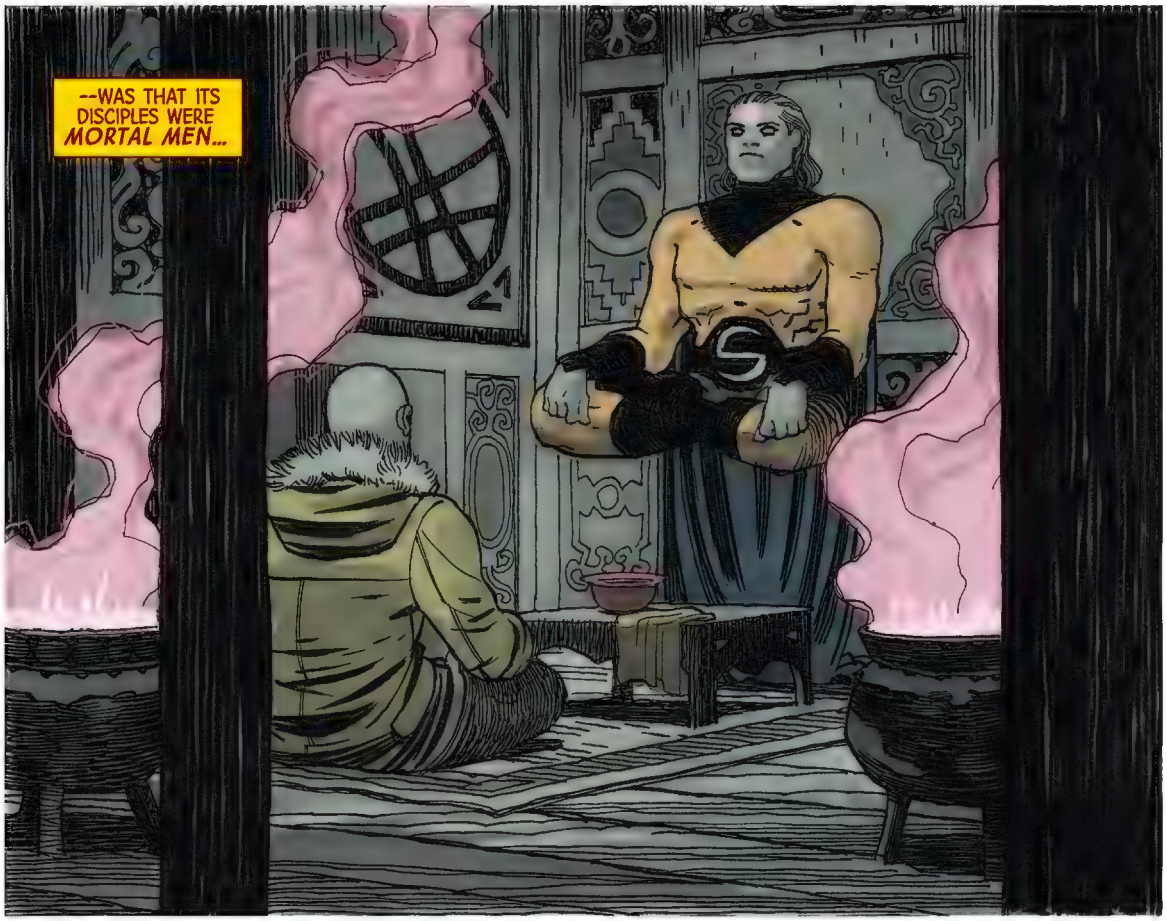
EARLIER...
THERE IS A FORGOTTEN TEMPLE HALF-BURIED IN THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS.
NOT LONG AGO, BEFORE THE FALL OF MAGIC, THE MEN WHO LIVED THERE...THE DISCIPLES OF STRANGE...AS THEY WERE CALLED...
...THEY PAID MY PRICE FOR ME.

FOR EVERY SPELL, EVERY ILLUSION, EVERY BINDING AND BLADE I CONJURED AND CAST...
...THESE MEN WOULD SUFFER IN MY STEAD.
WE ARE NOT SWORDS... WE ARE A SHIELD.


WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE TEMPLE, THE DISCIPLES...THE LIES...
WE PROTECT THE MAN WHO FIGHTS IN OUR NAME.

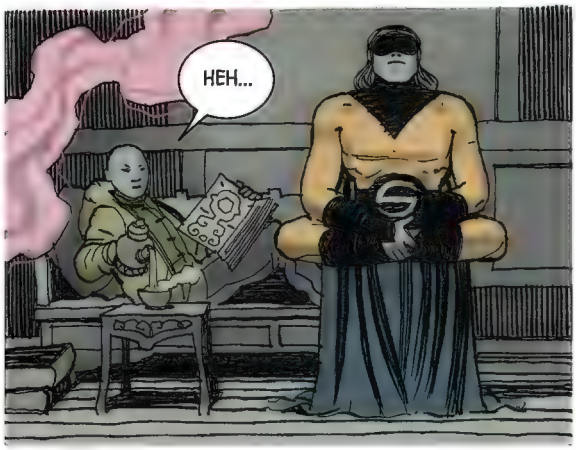

I WAS...UNKIND. I BELIEVED MYSELF TO BE ABOVE SUCH THINGS. BETTER.
WHEN HE IS CUT, WE HELP HIM BLEED. WHEN HIS BREATH GROWS SHORT, WE LEND HIM OURS...

AND, WELL, NEEDLESS TO SAY, RECENT EVENTS HAVE SINCE TAUGHT ME OTHERWISE.
I WAS TOO HARD ON WONG. THE IDEA OF THE TEMPLE ITSELF IS SOUND...
ITS ONLY REAL PROBLEM--
WE ARE HIS SECRET STRENGTH...


--WAS THAT ITS DISCIPLES WERE MORTAL MEN...

THIS IS NORMALLY THE PART WHERE I GO INTO THE HORROR AND THE PAIN AND THE ALMOST CERTAIN AGONIZING DEATH YOU WILL ENDURE IN THIS PROCESS... BUT, WELL...

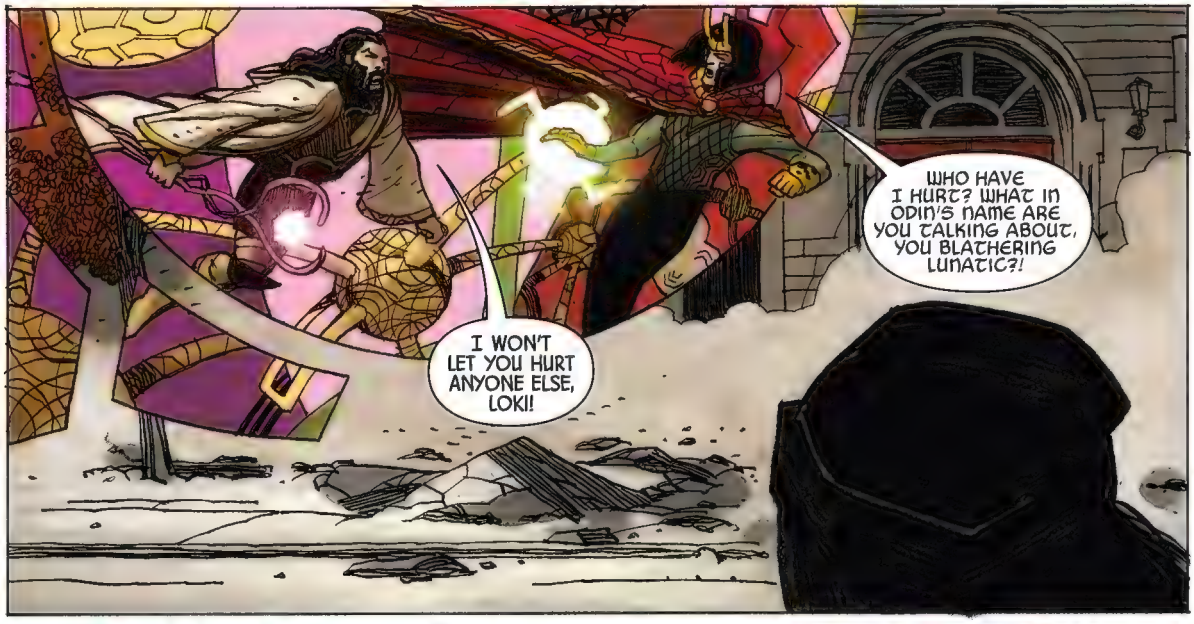
YEAH, NAH. I'M GOOD. GONNA TRY AND GET A NAP IN. GET ME UP IF YOU NEED ME, OKAY?


HEH...

GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME, DOC.

HEY, IT'S ME AGAIN, JUST WANTED TO CHECK IN... TRIED TEXTING YOU A FEW TIMES WHEN I WAS AT THE STORE. DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU PREFERRED WHEAT PASTA TO REGULAR OR--

WAAMM
...WHATEVER.


WHO HAVE I HURT? WHAT IN ODIN'S NAME ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU BLATHERING LUNATIC?!
I WON'T LET YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE, LOKI!

STOP PRETENDING TO BE YOUR BROTHER! YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF!
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO TURNED MYSELF INTO A DEMIGOD BECAUSE I WAS JEALOUS, YOU SECOND-RATE SORCERER!

OKAY... THAT'S ENOUGH.

VRAK PAR HENSARGIN!

WAIT... WHAT...

THE...THE SANDS OF NISHANTI?
THAT'S RIGHT!

FOR THE NEXT THREE MINUTES, NEITHER OF YOU CAN SO MUCH AS WISH ON A LUCKY PENNY, LET ALONE CAST ANY MAGICAL SPELLS.*
*YOU MAY REMEMBER THIS SPELL FROM DOCTOR STRANGE: THE OATH! -NICK

SO THERE, YOU'RE BOTH EQUAL NOW. I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TALK THINGS OUT.
LIKE ADULTS!

EQUAL?! ZELMA, HE'S STILL A--

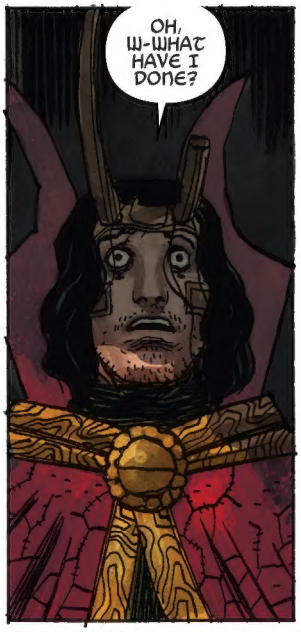
BOOM

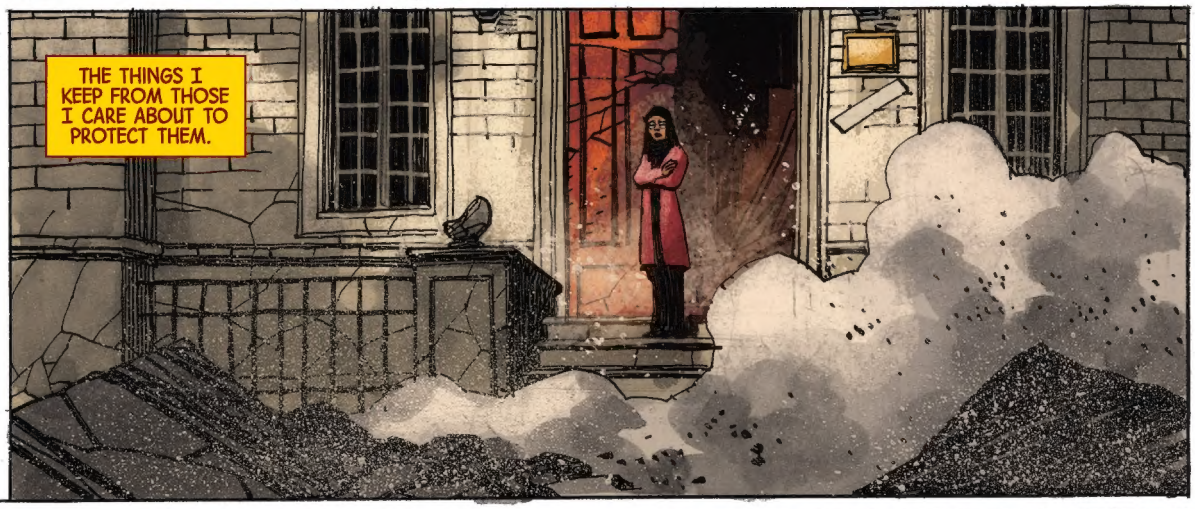
BO-OM
AGH!
...GOD.
DAMMIT.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO COME UP WITH A PLAN THAT WORKS...

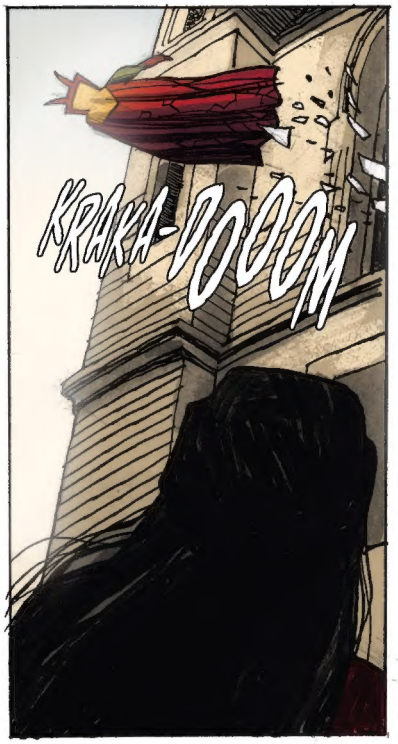
I WON'T SURVIVE ANOTHER HIT LIKE THAT.
THAT THING YOU ARE FEELING? THAT PAIN IN YOUR CHEST? THAT IS THE LAST DROP OF MY PATIENCE AND MERCY BLEEDING OUT OF YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS.
NOW...
OPEN IT.
WHAT? OPEN WHAT?
UNLESS...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I OPEN THIS DOOR...I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER...
...YOU ASKED FOR THIS.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK- KNOCK- KNOCK
KNOCK- KNOCK
EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE.
WAS THAT "SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT"? OH, YOU UNBELIEVABLE HACK...

ONE DAY, I WILL PAY MINE.
FOR MY ACTIONS HERE TODAY, FOR MY CRIMES AGAINST ASGARD...
STEPHEN?
FOR MY LIES.
FOR THE THINGS I KEEP LOCKED AWAY.

THE HURTFUL THINGS.
THE DARK THINGS.
OH...


OH, W-WHAT HAVE I DONE?


THE THINGS I KEEP FROM THOSE I CARE ABOUT TO PROTECT THEM.


KRAKA-DOOM

GAH!
BOOM

LOKI!
RUN... WE...HAVE TO RUN...
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
YES... EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE...

HELLO AGAIN, LITTLE GOD!
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT...DIDN'T I KILL YOU?!
THIS ONE BELONGS TO THE SENTRY.
...IT'S THE VOID...
TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT: SUPREME SHOWDOWN!
#385 ON SALE IN FEBRUARY!

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